



SR1050

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Senator Dan Cronin has represented the citizens of the State of Illinois, in particular DuPage and Cook Counties, for nearly 20 years; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Dan Cronin has served with honor in the Illinois Senate since 1993, after serving one term in the Illinois House of Representatives; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Cronin was the Chairman of the Senate Education Committee for 8 years and was Minority Spokesman for 8 years; in addition, he served on a number of important Senate committees, including Higher Education, Labor, Public Health, Judiciary Civil Law, Pensions and Investments, Commerce and Development, and Telecommunications and Technology; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Cronin is esteemed for his strong commitment to education, making it a top priority during his time in the General Assembly and securing millions of dollars for new construction and renovation of Illinois schools; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Cronin successfully sponsored the landmark 1999 legislation creating the Tuition Tax Credit for education expenses for parents; and

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1 WHEREAS, His dedication to Illinois schoolchildren led to
2 his role as the chief sponsor and a key negotiator of the
3 groundbreaking Chicago School Reform legislation in 1995,
4 which became a national model for helping failing school
5 systems by demanding local accountability as well as improved
6 standards for teachers, administrators, and students; and

7 WHEREAS, Senator Cronin has been a strong advocate for new
8 approaches to public education, co-sponsoring legislation to
9 provide school vouchers to children in Chicago's most
10 under-performing and over-crowded schools, advancing measures
11 expanding charter schools in Illinois, establishing teacher
12 certification alternatives to expedite the hiring of new, more
13 qualified teachers, and developing a new system of teacher
14 re-certification that required teaching professionals to
15 engage in professional development; and

16 WHEREAS, He has advanced bills to address the issue of
17 teacher shortages and create teacher mentoring programs in
18 order to bring the best and brightest teachers to at-risk
19 students in Illinois' most struggling schools; and

20 WHEREAS, Senator Cronin has consistently been a strong
21 voice for Illinois' employers, leading the charge on landmark
22 eminent domain legislation to ensure that property owners are
23 fairly reimbursed for relocations and legal expenses; and

1 WHEREAS, As a lifelong resident of DuPage County, Senator
2 Cronin has always worked hard to protect the families in the
3 western suburbs of Chicago; and

4 WHEREAS, His staunch advocacy for tax relief led him to
5 push for landmark tax cap legislation that extended property
6 tax caps to Cook County homeowners, while also advancing
7 property tax caps for senior citizens and veterans; and

8 WHEREAS, He has been a consistent vote against higher taxes
9 on families and small businesses, supporting the Tax
10 Accountability Act to require a 3/5 majority vote by the
11 General Assembly to increase taxes; and

12 WHEREAS, Senator Cronin's experience as a former DuPage
13 County Assistant State's Attorney has led him to be a vocal
14 advocate and sponsor of tough, effective law enforcement
15 legislation; and

16 WHEREAS, He has sponsored legislation cracking down on gang
17 crimes and drunk driving, imposing tougher penalties for
18 violent crimes, introducing anti-terrorism measures, and
19 advancing truth-in-sentencing laws; and

20 WHEREAS, His concern for the safety and welfare of Illinois

1 children led him to sponsor laws that improved security at
2 schools, protected children and women from domestic violence,
3 strengthened teen driving laws, and advanced the first
4 legislation to address aggressive behavior in students,
5 including bullying; and

6 WHEREAS, Senator Cronin recognized the growing problem of
7 identity theft and was a lead sponsor on a bill eliminating the
8 statute of limitations for this crime and supported legislation
9 requiring businesses to notify Illinois consumers if their
10 personal information is compromised; and

11 WHEREAS, As a loving parent who understands the importance
12 of a stable family, and touched by the "Baby Richard" adoption
13 case, Senator Cronin led the way for legislation designed to
14 bring peace of mind to adoptive parents and protect the
15 interests of the child; and

16 WHEREAS, For many years Senator Cronin has fought for
17 autistic children and their families, working hard to ensure
18 that they receive the best care possible and have the
19 opportunity to learn and grow as individuals in the community;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, He co-sponsored the Family Care Bill to allow
22 employees to take leave from work to care for family members in

1 need; and

2 WHEREAS, He has been a strong supporter of good government
3 reforms, leading the charge on recall legislation to permit
4 voters to remove elected officials from public office, as well
5 as measures to limit contributions to political campaigns and
6 increase transparency in Illinois State government; and

7 WHEREAS, His long legislative career has been marked by
8 numerous honors, including Crain's Chicago Business "Forty
9 Under 40" and recognition from local, State, and national
10 organizations representing such diverse interests as economic
11 development, education, environmental protection, veterans,
12 and health care; and

13 WHEREAS, Senator Cronin graduated from Northwestern
14 University and Loyola University Law School; and

15 WHEREAS, In addition to his work as a lawmaker, Senator
16 Cronin is a partner in the law firm of Power & Cronin, Ltd. and
17 is a life-long member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic
18 parish; and

19 WHEREAS, He is proud to sit on the Boards of Directors of
20 the Ray Graham Association for People with Disabilities, the
21 Joseph Academy, Fenwick High School, and the DuPage Business

1 Advisory Council, among others; and

2 WHEREAS, As a lawmaker, Senator Cronin's priorities have
3 always been those of the people he represents, better schools
4 for our children, public safety, property tax relief and
5 improving the quality of life for the people of his district;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, With his retirement, Senator Cronin leaves to
8 begin a new journey as DuPage County Board Chairman, with the
9 support of his family, his wife, Juliann, and their four
10 children, Elizabeth, Sarah, Grace, and Danny; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we thank Dan Cronin for
13 his many years of dedicated service to the people of Illinois
14 and honor him with this resolution; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this preamble and
16 resolution be presented to Dan Cronin with our best wishes for
17 his future endeavors.